

## THE GULL

APR - 2 1990



## ARGENTINE BIRDS WITH GEORGE PEYTON ANDES TO TIERRA DEL FUEGO

With over 3,000 miles stretching between its northern border in the Andes to its southern tip in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina has one of the most incredible variety of natural habitats in the Western Hemisphere. Join George Peyton on April 12 to see a part of South America that few Californians have visited.

Some of the highlights of the trip include marshlands filled with waterbirds such as Black-necked Swans, Southern Screamers, and Maguari Storks in the Argentine pampas; a penguin colony of 500,000, Southern Right Whales, and Lesser Rheas around the Valdez Peninsula. Black-browed Albatross, Magellanic Diving-Petrels, and Flightless Steamer Ducks on the Beagle Channel; the rare Magellanic Woodpecker and the secretive Torrent Duck at Tierra del Fuego National Park; Andean Condor and Black-chested Buzzard Eagle in the Alpine scenery of Bariloche; three species of flamingo, Mountain Caracara, and Llamas, at 12,500 foot Laguna de los Pozuelos in the Andes; and Red-legged Serema, Blue and Yellow Tanager, tapir and peccaries at El Rey National Park.

Blessed with such a wealth of natural habitats and beautiful scenery, as well as a very European atmosphere in its cities, Argentina is an ideal destination for foot-loose birders. Reserve Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, for this special meeting.

This occasion will also be Golden Gate Audubon's day to celebrate Earth Day with a special surprise. See you there.

JOELLA BUFFA, Program Chairman

### BIRDATHON 90

Last year GGAS did it! We raised \$5,600 for Mono Lake and our chapter's programs. We formed competitive teams with catchy names: the California Thrashers, reappearing this year as the Loonatics, won with 176 species and the Not-so-Old-squaws raised the most money (\$1,390). We helped a worthy environmental cause. We had a grand time of it. We started a new GGAS tradition.

This year GGAS is REALLY going to do it! We are more committed than ever before to save Mono Lake

*(continued on p. 61)*

**THIS IS THE BIRDATHON ISSUE**

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 7**—Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (Beginners' Trip).

**Wednesday, April 11**—Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park.

For details on the above trips see *The GULL* for March.

**Sunday, April 15**—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Traditional Easter walk. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes) for a walk around the various lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl to be seen and at least two species of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch at nearby Thiggy's Restaurant in Lincoln Park (\$12). Leader: Betty Short (921-3020, work phone).

**Saturday, April 21**—Second Annual Point Reyes National Seashore All-day Spring Birding Blitz. (Joint activity: GGAS/Nat. Park Service.) Meet at 8 a.m. at Five Brooks Trail-head parking lot, approximately five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1. We will bird Five Brooks Pond Area, Limantour Split, Drake's Beach, Chimney Rock, and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. Bring water, food, and layer clothes for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams (459-6366, work) (843-4107, home). (✓)

**Saturday, April 28**—Birdathon. See page 61 for details.

**Sunday, April 29**—Mines Rd., Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Take I-580 east and turn right on No. Livermore Exit. Continue south two miles to the Nob Hill Shopping Center

at So. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will caravan on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Road-runners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Those who want to can continue with the group until dark. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

**Saturday, May 5**—Birding by Ear in Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park off Bear Creek Rd. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda turnoff. Exit and take San Pablo Dam Rd. northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about two miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Meet in the parking area on the left just beyond the fee booth. Be prepared to hike five miles with lunch and liquids through hilly terrain. Be sure to bring a hat or sunscreen. We will study the songs and calls of common breeding birds of the East Bay. Leader: Dave Cornman. (825-2106).

**Sunday, May 6**—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thor's Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will make a short drive to the trailhead on Rifle Range Rd. Pack lunch and liquids for a six mile hike.

We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streambanks and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants and a good representation of nesting birds

including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Hiking boots advisable. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (376-8945). (✓)

**Wednesday, May 9**—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 east to the Orinda turnoff. Turn left and follow San Pablo Dam Rd. about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about two miles to Briones Regional Park entrance on the right.

Wildcat Canyon Dr., through Tilden Park (from the top of Spruce St.) will also take you to San Pablo Dam Rd. and the Bear Creek Rd. junction.

We should see Northern Orioles, Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

**Problems:** If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

#### Plan ahead:

**June 1-3**—Birding by ear in Yosemite. Leader: Dave Cornman.

**June 9-10**—Yuba Pass. Leader: Peter Allen.

**June 16-17**—Mono Basin. Leaders: Helen and Paul Green.

**June 22-24**—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy.

#### —FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## JANET MURPHY RESIGNS

At its meeting Feb. 26, the Board accepted with regret the resignation of West Bay Director Janet Murphy. Her membership on the Finance Committee and her active board participation will be missed.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Tom White named Bruce Walker, Steve Margolin, Arthur Feinstein, and himself to serve as the nominating committee. The committee will select a chairman. Their telephones are listed in the roster on page 68, and they welcome suggestions from you for candidates for the board of directors. New members will take office in June, the beginning of our new year.

## Use LINE 45 To Help California's Endangered Species.



FORM 540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more

43	Alzheimer's Disease	• 43
44	Senior Citizens	• 44
45	ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 45 <b>15</b>
46	Child Abuse	• 46
47	Olympics	• 47
48	Vietnam Veterans	• 48

There are more than 260 California wildlife species facing the threat of extinction. You can help them survive by filling in Line 45 on your State Tax Return. Even a little helps a lot, so please do what you can

*Pictured here: San Joaquin Kit Fox*



## OBSERVATIONS THRU FEBRUARY 23, 1990

It is with some trepidation that I begin writing this column. . . I am forced to face the fact that birdwatching is serious business and my predecessors (Don Roberson, Steve Bailey and most recently and notably Helen Green) with their careful research and meticulous attention to detail have done much to advance the cause. Over the years the *Observations* column has gone from a rather brief list of birds seen (Spring, 1940, consisted of Lutescent Warbler, Piliated Warbler, Duck Hawk, Slender-billed Nuthatch, California Gnatcatcher, and news of the nesting Bushtits in Mrs. Scott's garden) to an extended narrative that attempts to provide scope and reason for the sightings as well as some perspective on developing patterns. The rise of the computer as well as a dramatic increase in the number of eager and communicative bird watchers has resulted in an avalanche of data that is, fortunately, manageable and accessible beyond the wildest dreams of those who once had to rely solely on 3×5 cards.

We all can be grateful for Joe Morlan who, in addition to manning the tapes, filtering the reports, and broadcasting the daily and weekly Rare Bird Alerts, compiles the month's information on computer and forwards it for use in the *Observations* column preparation. I find myself in the daunting position of having to master the computer at the same time as I am trying to sort out the vagaries of range and distribution, to say nothing of all the other little oddments that seem to be part of the job. I will use it as an excuse to build my library and hope that my relative ignorance will not lead to too many egregious blunders. Fortunately Helen will be close-by for at least a few months so I will have expert guidance—

she is certainly going to be a hard act to follow.

\* \* \* \* \*

A month of too perfect weather, interrupted by a week of high winds and a brief series of major storms at its midpoint, proved better for the out-and-about birdwatcher than for our depleted reservoirs. The windy conditions, abetted perhaps by warmer ocean currents, resulted in an ocean bird bonanza.

In the meantime, however, enormous numbers of dead seabirds began washing up onto our ocean beaches. David Ainley of PRBO has hypothesized that warm water incursions resulting from an El Nino pattern are killing the plankton and fish and the birds are starving to death. Autopsies indicate starvation but a Horned Puffin found at Pt. Reyes Beach was found to have listeriosis, caused by a spirochete which destroys the digestive system, so the problem does not have a single answer. (ES fide RS)

### SEA BIRDS

**Fork-tailed Storm Petrels**, those pearly gray sprites lusted after by any a pelagic birder, were visible from numerous shore points in gratifying numbers from the 13th to the 19th: up to forty-five at Monterey Harbor (AB fide SFB, RMrr, DFW); fifteen off SE Farallon (PP fide KH); thirteen or more in Santa Cruz Harbor (CKf); five at Moss Landing (MFe) and one or more individuals at Princeton Harbor (RSTh, MNo CKf); Pigeon Point (BS); Bodega Harbor (DASH); and Pt. Reyes (RS fide KH), including five dead individuals on the 20th. Hundreds of Northern Fulmars and small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were seen from Pt. Pinos on the 18th (DFW). Single Northern Fulmars were noted from Pigeon Pt. (RSTh, MLR, BS) and Monterey Harbor (KGH) on the 18th and 19th

respectively. One white morph Fulmar was found dead on Pt. Reyes Beach on the 21st (RS fide KH). Black-legged Kittiwakes ranged from offshore (twelve on a Monterey Bay pelagic on the 4th) (BGh) to nearshore (up to five at Moss Landing from the 17th to the 19th (MFe, KGH); five at Pt. Pinos on the 18th (DFW); with individuals at Pigeon Pt. (2/18) (RSTh), Cannery Row (2/19) (MPa) and Santa Cruz Wharf (2/19) (fide CKf); to well on-shore at Mill Valley marsh on the 17th (JCo).

The **Thick-billed Murre** which has plied the waters of Monterey Bay off Cannery Row since September was reported thru the 10th (MOB) and a second individual was reported further offshore on the 4th (BGh). A **Marbled Murrelet** was off Cannery Row on the 2nd (CT) and an Ancient Murrelet was seen on the 19th from the Monterey Coast Guard Jetty (MPa). Rhinoceros Auklets were reported from Bolinas Lagoon (KH), Monterey Harbor (JHu, KGH) and Pigeon Pt. (JM); twenty-eight were counted dead on Pt. Reyes Beach on the 21st (RS). Two **Horned Puffins** were reported from SE Farallon Island on the 17th (PP fide KH) and one was seen from Pigeon Pt. on the 21st (BS, MLR). The other Horned Puffin sightings included at least one live individual and several dead ones found along the San Mateo County coast at about the same time (fide SFB) and seven more (including two dead) on the 20th at Pt. Reyes Beach (RS).

A **Yellow-billed Loon**, the first for the season was reported from Monterey Harbor on the 15th (SAS) and an adult male **Magnificent Frigatebird** floated over Monterey near the Pacific Grove Entrance to 17-Mile Drive on the 1st (CT).

## WATERBIRDS

On the 8th, a Black Rail flushed at the mouth of Walker Creek in Tomales Bay (RS, JK, DWm). This is likely the furthest north record of Black Rail on the west coast.

Wintering Cattle Egrets continued in small numbers: the individual at Lake Merritt, an old friend by now, lines up for the morning hand-outs and hangs out on one of the cages, looking as though wanting to join a kin within (MOB). Additional individuals were sighted in Foster City on the 7th (RSTh); Fresno on the 10th (fide KH) and Santa Cruz on the 17th (CKf). Although geese winter in huge numbers in the Central Valley, they are less common along the coast so it is always of interest when they are seen. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were spotted at Las Gallinas Sewer Pond on the 3rd (MLR). And the blue morph Snow Goose and the Ross' Goose were still present at Shorebirds Pond in Santa Cruz on the 17th (CKf). Another Ross' Goose was in Los Gatos on the 20th (JMcK). Numbers of Eurasian Wigeons and Oldsquaws were again seen throughout the area—a summary at the end of the season would be in order. The Sutro Baths Tufted Duck hid himself to Elk Glen Lake on the 19th but returned to Sutro on the 22nd (MOB). A controversy arose early in the month about the identity of his female Goldeneye companion, but it turned out to be the old two-, three-, and perhaps even four-bird solution, with one bird being absolutely, positively identified as a female Barrows Goldeneye on the 7th (JM). The **King Eider**, now in spectacular breeding plumage, continues to be seen from the Fish Docks (MOB), but is feeding further out in Drakes Bay and can be missed for days at a time. The Bolinas Lagoon and Fish Docks Harlequin



Ducks were still present (MOB) and an additional individual was spotted off Cannery Row in Monterey on the 2nd (CT).

The Lesser Golden Plover flock, all *Fulvas*, continued in lesser numbers it appears (down to as few as 3) at the Spaletta Plateau (MOB). Another individual (also *Fulva*) was at Princeton Harbor on the 18th (CKf). Mountain Plovers were at their usual haunts over 200 in Panoche Valley on the 17th (CCr)—but two at Clifton Court Forebay on the 18th (RJR) were a little more unusual. The Rock Sandpipers at Pebble Beach and Princeton Harbor were reported thru the 9th and 23rd respectively (MOB).

Glaucous Gulls put in appearances at Hayward Shoreline—a 2nd-year bird from 1/31 to 2/6 (RSc, PEG); Clifton Court Forebay on 2/18 (RJR); and Yolo Sanitary Landfill—a 2nd-year bird on the 19th (HG et al.).

### LAND BIRDS

A small owl roosting on a building off Army St. in San Francisco from the 1st to the 3rd went through several identity changes before emerging as a Burrowing Owl (LK, MLR, SC). But there seemed to be no doubt about the identity of a Long-eared Owl at Coyote Hills on the 1st (JL).

On February 13th a single Vaux's Swift flew over Great Highway and Fulton St. in SF (JMR, FGB).

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained at Nicasio Town Square thru the 10th (MOB), and a Red-naped Sapsucker was spotted in El Granada on the 7th (BS fide RSTh).

The Christmas-Bird-Count **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** remained at Pine Lake Park in San Francisco, an obliging bird, while the Summer Tanager, although still present, proved a far more elusive quarry (MOB). In the meantime an Ash-throated Flycatcher showed up

at American River College in Sacramento on the 18th (MJL).

A Barn Swallow flying over Pescadero marsh on the 18th showed characteristics of asiatic races (very bright orange-red throat, solid dark breast band, white below), but it's an esoteric subject and additional research would be helpful (JM). Two American Dip-pers were found at Sunol Regional Park on the 11th (MLa). A Mountain Bluebird at Pt. Reyes from 1/30 to 2/3 was definitely out of its normal range, as was a Townsend's Solitaire at Wunderlich Co. Park on 2/13 (JMR, SAS). The trusty Bendire's Thrasher, like a glad refrain, was still at 333 Jahant Road in Lodi (MOBB), but the Corte Madera Northern Shrike was the antithesis of dependable—"still there" is of little consolation to those who have made repeated trips to no avail (MOB). Phainopepla was a find on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Marin, on the 22nd (CSp).

A few good warblers lingered on: Nashville at Bodega Bay and Phipps Ranch, Pescadero, where there was also a Black and White; a Palm at Half Moon Bay; and American Redstart and Wilson's Warbler which were last seen at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park on the 1st (all MOB). Likewise a few good sparrows: Clay-colored Sparrows showed up at Half Moon Bay from the 4th to the 13th (RSTh, MLR, LC, DC) and Pescadero from the 11th to the 19th (RSTh, JM, MFe). The *iliaca/zaboria* Fox Sparrow at the Phipps Ranch was last reported on 1/31. (JM, RMrr). Swamp Sparrows continued to be seen, although in diminished numbers, at Olema Marsh (MOB), near Ano Nuevo Ranch (RSTh) and at the Phipps Ranch (PJM, JM, MFe). The White-Throated Sparrow and the immature Harris' Sparrow lingered in Pengrove until the 10th (DN, MLR, RA).

## NEXT MONTH

April is typically a slow month for the rarities that stir the birders' blood, but keep in mind that two Black Skimmers were seen from Alameda South Shore in 1982, a Laughing Gull showed up in Bodega Bay in 1980 and a Brown Thrasher was found in Oakland in 1978. Hope springs...

## OBSERVERS

Richard Ackley, Dick Ashford, Alan Baldridge, Stephen F. Bailey, Florence G. Bennet, Chris Carpenter, David Coe, Luke Cole, John Comstock, S. Cox, Marc Fenner, Brad Goodhart, Helen Green, Paul Green, Keith Hansen, Kevin G. Hints (KGH), Joel Hurd, Clay Kempf, Lazar Keidelman, Michael Larkin, Julie Linger, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, many observers (mob), John McKain, Robert V. Merrill, Joe Morlan, Dan Nelson, Mary Nordstrom, Michael Patton, Lina Jane Prairie, Peter Pyle, David Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Saupee, Rusty Scalf (RSc), Steve Schafer, Ed Shaw, Chris Spooner, Rich Stallcup, Ron S. Thorn, Cynthia Trollman, Neil Whitehouse, Dennis Wolff (DFW), David Wimpfheimer (DWm)

ANN DEWART

719 Beatie St., Oakland 94606

415/763-3010

## CONSERVATION NOTES

### REPORT CLAPPER RAIL PREDATORS

In 1984 the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Endangered Species estimated 4,000 Clapper Rails inhabited the San Francisco Bay shoreline. A winter high tide census in November and December 1989 which covered all marshes known to harbor rails yielded a low total of 400-500 birds. Swift action must be taken to stem the decline of rails. Both long and short term recovery actions must be taken.

While biologists do not know all the

reasons for the rapid decline of Clapper Rails in San Francisco Bay, they do have some ideas. Habitat destruction is high on the list, as they are found only in tidal cordgrass marshes, areas subject to destruction by development baywide. Contamination from toxics is another threat, with heavy metals moving up the food chain. Predation by invasive, non-native predators is a third critical threat to the Clapper Rail.

You can help rails survive. Save San Francisco Bay and the eight Audubon Chapters in the area are asking members to report sightings of potential predators. We will help the Dept. of Fish and Game develop a data base of predator sightings. Phone the office of GGAS at 843-2222, to report.

The information needed would include the following:

<b>rat</b>	<b>red fox</b>	<b>feral cat</b>	<b>other</b>
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number seen, location, time of day, whether you have seen it(them) before, your name, address and phone number. If staff is not available please leave message on the answering machine tape.

## BAY-DELTA HEARINGS

The Committee for Water Policy Consensus (682-6633) alerts us to the importance of the long delayed Bay-Delta hearings. Release in January of a draft plan for water quality control for the Bay-Delta Estuary starts the process. The plan is expected to be approved in the fall of 1990. Public participation is a crucial part of the attempt to gain improved protections for the system. The revised structure of the Hearings seems biased against estuarine protection.

*The GULL* for May will include further coverage of this issue, but now would be a good time to write Don Maughan, Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board, 901 P St., Sacramento, CA 95801 (send copies to



your State Senator and Assemblyman) asking reconsideration of the decision to eliminate freshwater flow standards from the Water Quality Control Plan.

## MONO LAKE UPDATE

Although the news of legal victories for Mono Lake has been glowing in the presses, the truth is that the lake is extremely low—6375.4 feet in January. Low lake levels mean drastically reduced food supplies for many bird species which use this inland sea for nesting and migration. Lower lake levels also mean increased dust storms, harmful to humans, trees, and other living organisms in the area.

Recently, the Third District Court of Appeals has ruled unanimously that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) water licenses are not valid because they did not comply with Fish and Game requirements for flow to preserve fisheries below dams. Further, they have said diversion streams feeding Mono Lake must be maintained in pre-diversion condition. What this means in terms of when and how much water for the lake is to be decided in another hearing, and, of course, Los Angeles DWP's usual strategy is to appeal.

In spite of a preliminary injunction order requiring Los Angeles DWP to maintain a lake level of 6377 ft. at least through March 31, 1990, this is not possible. They did not hold back enough water from the diversion streams before this order was made. Runoff does not become available again to the Lake until mid-summer. Coyotes are wading the narrow channel between the land bridge and Negit Island, and the Gull colony is in danger once again. There will be an expensive and very critical evidentiary hearing this summer to consider extending the injunction.

It is only through litigation that the

Mono Lake Committee has been able to stave off total collapse of the lake ecosystem. Once more it needs your help to continue the effort against the Goliath DWP. Here is how you can participate: **JOIN GGAS IN ITS BIRD-ATHON.** See above (below, in this issue) for details.

—HELEN GREEN

## MONO LAKE BIRD COUNTERS

Counters are needed for two efforts at Mono Lake. Call Emilie Straus at (415) 843-6024 for detailed information.

The first, Saturday and Sunday April 21–22 is the Mono Lake 1990 Spring Shorebird count. As a part of the PRBO Pacific Flyway Project we will count all of Mono Lake's shoreline. This is a great chance to explore Mono's remote beaches and mudflats. Some experience with shorebird identification is helpful. You need not be present on both days to participate.

Then on Saturday, June 16 there will be the Mono Lake Spring Breeding Bird Count. It is organized like a Christmas Count. Groups will survey Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, and the western shores of Mono Lake. Greentailed Towhees, Cassin's Finches and House Wrens will be singing; Mariposa lilies and wild iris will be blooming. Please join in the count.

## SF COUNTY LIST

A GGAS member is working on a bird list for San Francisco County. He would appreciate field notes, comments, suggestions. Send them to A. K., 537 Jones, #796, San Francisco, CA 94102.



**BIRDATHON** *(cont. from p.53)*  
 especially now at this crucial moment when we are so close to protecting this unique ecological gem, yet when legal costs continue to mount horrendously. Now more than ever GGAS is depending on you, our members, for support, financial, birding, moral in Birdathon '90.

We are more confident this year that we can reach our goal of \$20,000. Golden Gate has joined forces with our sister chapter across The Bridge, Marin Audubon. Together, with our combined membership of over 8000, with the addition of such expert birders as Rich Stallcup forming new teams and gathering more pledges, and with the cooperative energy and enthusiasm of our two chapters, we feel certain that our birdathon will succeed in helping to save Mono Lake. So it is that we count on you to pledge our various teams, to form your own teams and gather Your own pledges, to get out there and identify as many species as you can, and to cheer us on in our endeavors.

GGAS is a volunteer organization. To succeed, it relies on its membership, on you, for your time and energy, for your talent and skills, for your interest and commitment, and for your donations. Thanks to your efforts in the past, GGAS has flourished: as a leading environmental organization it has made a difference in protecting the Bay Area, in fighting for wetlands, in monitoring the dispersal of species. GGAS had had an impact on the lives of people here: we educate them, we lead them on field trips, we confront them in the legal and political systems. We must do more if we are to meet the challenges of the new decade and the new century.

As your president, I ask that we all double our efforts in this year's birdathon. The GGAS board is charging

ahead with double the dedication and gusto. We hope to have twice the number of teams, thanks to the inclusion of Marin Audubon. Let's all multiply by two, and we will make Birdathon '90 a double success.

Happy birding!

—TOM WHITE

## WHAT'S A BIRDATHON?

A birdathon is a fundraiser, whereby 500 Audubon chapters nationwide raise money for specific environmental causes and for the chapter itself.

A birdathon is fun because it involves a large number of people, those who do the birding and those who pledge their support.

A birdathon is educational. It makes more people, your family and friends, your co-workers and neighbors, more aware of bird life and, therefore, the environment, and our need to protect it.

### Who Does It?

GGAS and Marin have formed competitive teams made up of famous hot-shot birders from the chapter. Each team has its own focus, flavor, and expertise. You know them. Now all you need do is pledge your support. Such teams as the all-women **Not So Oldsquaws** or the senior-citizen **Gray Jays** or the musically inclined **Nashville Warblers** are competing. One group will spot the largest number of bird species and emerge the winner.

You, too, can bird in the birdathon. Recruit a team from your office or school or church and compete with the experts. All that is required to enter is a minimum \$1 per species spotted by your group.

### How To Do It?

It's easy. Check off on the pledge form (over leaf) the team you wish to sponsor, indicating how much money you wish to donate per bird species.

*(continued on page 65)*

GOLDEN GATE — MARIN AUDUBON  
NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON

PLEDGE FORM

YES, I WANT TO HELP MARIN AUDUBON,  
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON AND MONO LAKE!

I pledge to sponsor one (or more) of the following teams at the rate of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ per species.

ALLEN'S HUMMERS

Joe DiDonato, Allen Fish, John Keane,  
Sally Mills

BEASTS OF BIRDIN'

Debbie Cotter, David Rice, David  
Wimpfheimer, Dennis Wolff

CAJUN COUCHBIRDS (In Texas)

Chris Carpenter, Leslie Lethridge, Nicola  
Selph, Walt Berger, Tim Molter, Marty  
Maricle, Jack & Phyllis Myers

CHEAP T'RILLS

Dave Quady and Friends

CLEAN UP-LAND SANDPIPERS

Harrison Karr, Bill Keener, Clyde Morris,  
John Rothman

EMMY'S EGRETS

MINES ROADRUNNERS

Ken Howard, Peter Allen, and the  
participants in the Marin Audubon  
Field Trip

MURPHY'S MOB

Dan Murphy, Penny Watson, Ann Parris,  
Tom White, and a host of friends

NOT-SO-OLDSQUAWS

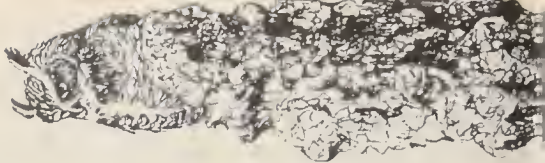
Martha Davis, Ann Dewart, Leora Feeney,  
Helen Green, Lina Prairie, Mary Louise  
Rosegay, Emilie Strauss, Janet Wessel,  
Dianne Sierra

PAJARO-THONERS

Pat Gannon and Friends

SEMI-PULVERIZED PLOVERS!

Paul Green, Dave Shuford, Rich Stallcup,



**GRAY JAYS**

Ruth and Ted Dement, Anne Warburton

**GREAT BASIN BUSHBEATERS**

Melanie Findling, Debby & Jim Parker and  
Mono Basin Residents

**LOONATICKS**

Alan Hopkins, Dan Singer, Donna Lion,  
David Holway

I want to support the team with the highest species total at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per species

I want to support the team with the lowest species total at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per species

I will lead my own team and gather pledges totalling at least \$1/species

I pledge a total contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY ZIP

**Please Mail to GGAS:**

1250 Addison St., #107B

Berkeley, CA 94702

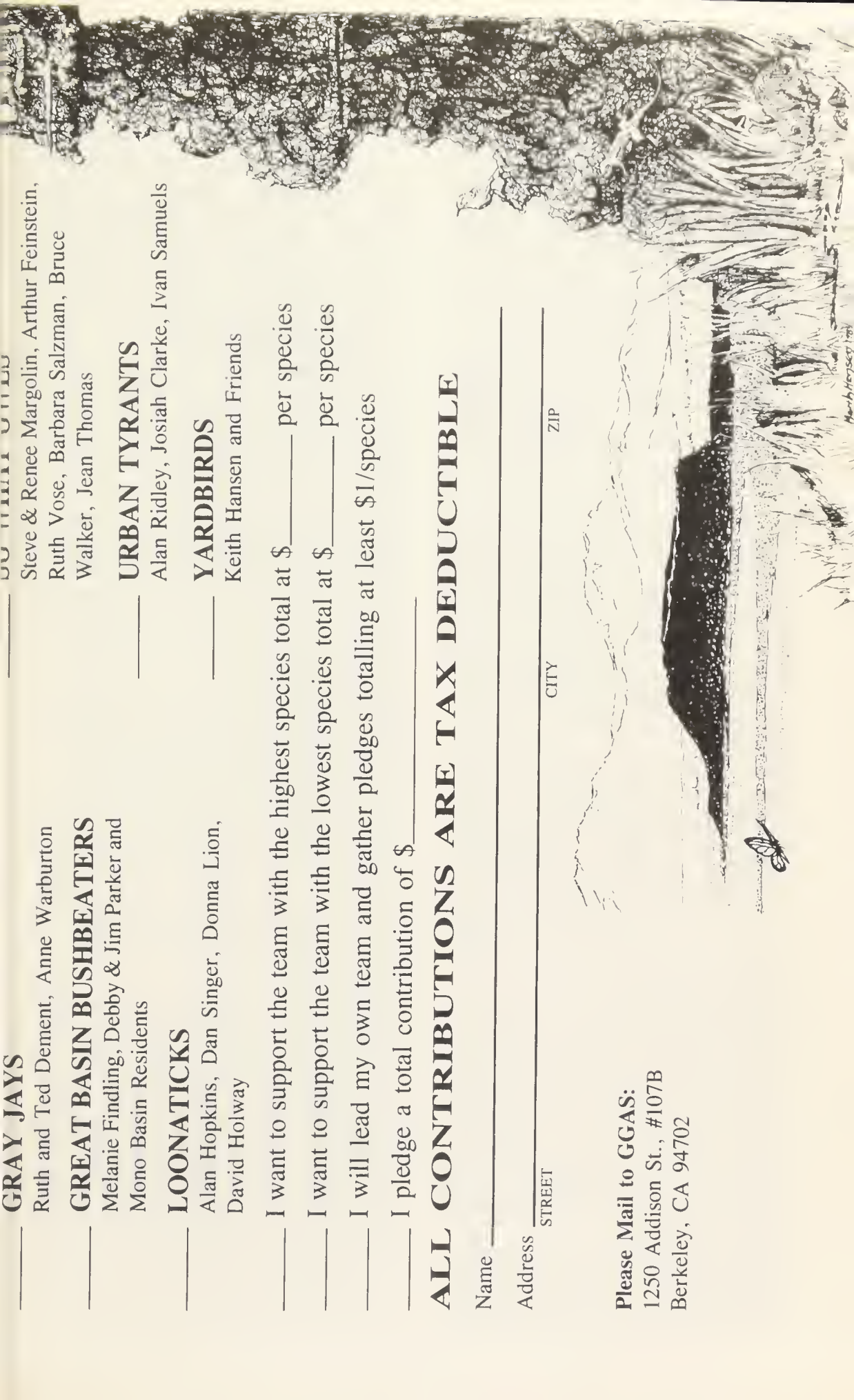
Steve & Renee Margolin, Arthur Feinstein,  
Ruth Vose, Barbara Salzman, Bruce  
Walker, Jean Thomas

**URBAN TYRANTS**

Alan Ridley, Josiah Clarke, Ivan Samuels

**YARDBIRDS**

Keith Hansen and Friends





## ASK MARGARET NICE

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** My boyfriend has asked me to do a Birdathon with him. We have gone out a few times, but never anything quite this serious. I'm not sure I am ready to make such a big commitment. What should I do?

**NERVOUS NIGHT-HERON**

Dear Nervous: Since you wrote me, instead of asking Beth, I assume you and your beau are over the age of consent. My advice is go on the Birdathon. After all, it is only one day, not the rest of your life.

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** My mail today included a solicitation from a friend, asking me to pledge to pay money to some charity or other based on the number of species of birds my friend says she will see on April 28. This struck me as rude. Is this for real, or is my friend not the Turkey I thought, but really a Skimmer? **RUFFLED GROUSE**

Dear Grouse: You are right. Your friend *is* rude. She should have asked you for the pledge in person. And the money is not going to "some charity or other"; it is going to Golden Gate Audubon and Marin Audubon, with half earmarked to help save Mono Lake. So send your friend your pledge today, lest everyone think you a Caprimuliform.

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** Two people have hit me up for pledges for their Birdathons in April. One is doing the Marin Audubon Birdathon and the other is doing GAS's. I like both of them, so I do not want to say "no" to either, but cannot afford two pledges. It would be really nice if you could help me out of this jam, Maggie, because right now I feel like a DODO.

Dear Dodo: Your friends are doing *the same* Birdathon. Marin and GGAS have joined forces to do one Birdathon on

Saturday, April 28, 1990. Half the money raised will be donated to National Audubon's Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund. Our two local Audubon Societies will split the rest fifty-fifty. So you do not need to choose between your friends. Thanks for your generosity. And stop feeling like a Dodo. You are obviously a high Roller.

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** You have got to help me. I *must* see a Resplendent Quetzal on the 1990 Birdathon. I just *have* to. It is on the top of my list and I missed out last year. Where should I look? **AMERICAN DIPPER**

Dear Dipper: I assume you confined yourself to Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin Counties last time. No wonder you dipped out. Try *Central* America. By the way, what is wrong with some nice birds, like Song Sparrows?

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** Are Oldsquaws still around? If I have to give to a birdathon team, at least it should have a cute name. **VIRGINIA('s) WARBLER.**

Dear Warbler: Yes, Virginia, there still are Oldsquaws. (Two were at the Fish Docks all of February.) Send them (the Oldsquaws Team, not the Fish Docks fowl) your pledge on the form in this issue of *The GULL*. Of course the cute team names is a game more than Toucan play at!

**DEAR MRS. NICE:** I keep reading about the 1990 birdathon and how much fun it will be and what great things will be done with the funds raised. But I am not a high-flying birder, nor am I swift enough to burn up the Bay Area on April 28. If I were on a team, though, I bet a bunch of my friends (maybe even my mom) would pledge for me. What should I do? **NOT SO GREAT KNOT**

Dear Great: It is fun to root for the Superbirder Teams, but it is real nice to go out and see some birds yourself.

Birdathons are for everyone, from Little Gulls to those who are just Limpkin along. For the Big Day in San Francisco, without the mad dash to cover twelve counties, try Murphy's Mob. There also will be other teams of folks who are not determined to be the best of the birdathon, but still pretty darned good. Your pledges will be welcome, no matter what team you join. So sign up.

### **WHAT'S A BIRDATHON (cont.)**

E.G., pledging 25¢ per species will raise \$25 if 100 birds are spotted by your team. For your own team, gather pledges from friends and acquaintances far and wide. We have additional pledge forms at the office for them (or just photocopy this one).

During one 24-hour period on the weekend of April 28–29 your team will be birding its heart out. At the end of the day, a list of species spotted will be compiled, which you will receive. According to the amount pledged per species, make out a check to Golden Gate Audubon Society for the total. If you've formed your own team, ask your sponsors as soon as possible for their donations.

### **Where Does The Money Go?**

Last year we raised \$5500 without really trying. This year, setting our sights higher, about four times higher, we hope to raise \$20,000. Half the money will go to support the National Audubon Society Mono Lake Legal Fund. GGAS is firmly committed to preventing the demise of this unique lake and ecosystem. The other half of the money will help fund GGAS's various educational and conservation programs, particularly our crusade to protect the wetlands of the Bay Area.

## **BIRDATHON PRIZES**

As an added incentive for you to join our Birdathon, either by joining a team or by pledging one, a multitude of prizes if being offered by National Audubon and by GGAS and Marin chapters. Books, field guides, computer software, videos, decoys, cameras, binoculars, scopes, sporting goods, and trips will be awarded to chapters and individuals by National Audubon. Meanwhile, our two chapters will give an all-expense paid pelagic trip to the team that sees the greatest number of species.

In addition, we will award to the team that raises the most money specially designed t-shirts and a Mono Lake bandana. The prize for anyone who pledges at least 50 cents per species will be a lovingly rendered map by Janet Wessel of the route taken by the winning team with a list of the species seen. For the person who contributes the most money in pledges, we have a special prize—your choice of weekend courses in the Mono Field Seminar series (donated by the Mono Lake Foundation). Finally, the biggest prize of all: if our Birdathon is successful, we can all do our part to SAVE MONO LAKE for us and our posterity. Please pledge our Birdathon.

## **MURPHY'S MOB**

We're tough and dangerous. We're the largest birdathon team. We have the most fun. We want *you* to join us, either by pledging or participating (minimum is 25¢ a bird species). The bigger, the better for more birders, more pledges, more money, (last year we raised \$1175. We can double it this year!) for Mono Lake. Tough guy Dan Murphy, of birding reknown, will be leading his many observers from the end of Van Ness in Aquatic Park in S.F. starting at 7:30, Saturday, April 28. We will gang up on all other teams, birding S.F.



hotspots all day long until 6:30 p.m., when we adjourn to Celia's Mexican Restaurant for well-deserved margaritas, frijoles, and guacamole. Murphy's Mob is truly, uniquely *cosa nostra*. Sign up on the enclosed form or call Barbara at 843-2222.

## BACK YARD BIRDER

Common sense tells us that birds must have keen senses of hearing. After all, they communicate by sound just as humans do. They have courting and territorial songs; alarm notes; soft sounds between parents and their young; calls between flocking birds; and threat sounds (beak-clicking by owls or hissing sounds by various birds are common warnings to any pest to "stay away"). Birds' very lives depend upon listening for sounds of a predator.

Birds probably rely upon acute hearing for finding food. There is evidence that robins, plovers and other birds which search the ground for invertebrates can hear their subsurface prey as it moves. Woodpeckers appear to hear grubs and insects which inhabit trees beneath the bark. In laboratory experiments, Barn Owls' eyes were covered and they could locate a squeaking mouse using only their hearing.

Like human ears, birds' ears are located in the side of the head. The hearing mechanism is the same: 3 interconnected chambers. But they lack the fleshy external sound-catching appendages we humans exhibit (some people more than others!). However, some owls have a flap of skin along the front edge of the ear hole that can close over the opening or can be erected to catch sounds from *behind*. Owl ears are also unique in that they are asymmetrical (one is higher than the other), probably an adaptation for locating prey in the dark. Also, the feathers covering birds' ear holes have no barbules. Barbules act

like velcro—they interconnect to keep the feathers tightly connected and smooth. So, these feathers can be erected from the side of the head, presumably to "catch" more sound.

As I mentioned in the February Back yard Birder, birds' hearing range is different from humans'. It is limited to about 5 octaves (humans hear 9 octaves). And each individual bird's hearing range is limited to the sounds it can make. But, birds can hear "faster" than humans. That becomes evident when bird songs are slowed down, when we hear many more notes than we can at normal speed. Birds which mimic include these notes in their copycat songs, meaning that they hear them while we don't.

In 1979, experiments showed that domestic pigeons can detect infrasound (e.g. vibrations made by meteorological or tectonic disturbances). This would explain instances of birds "predicting" earthquakes. It also probably aids pigeons' homing ability and other birds navigational skills.

Where were those pigeons before October 17? —MEG PAULETICH

1890 - 1990



YOSEMITE  
NATIONAL PARK  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

If you haven't written about your concerns, the beginning of Yosemite's Centennial year is a good time to get yourself on the record. Your Representative in Congress and your two Senators should know what you think. *The GULL* (September, page 119, January, page 8) has given you ammunition. PLEASE WRITE.



## HOMES FOR BLUEBIRDS

Anyone really interested in helping the Western Bluebird should erect nesting houses. Putting up houses is the most successful technique by far for increasing the bluebird population. Not just any house will do; it needs to be carefully designed and constructed so that the birds intended will use it, and predators cannot raid a nest. The house needs to be built without a perch, which would attract Starlings.

For persons who need help, Audubon comes to the rescue with Bluebirds Across America, a project that offers an easily assembled durable, cypress house tailored to the Bluebird's needs. Write to B. A. A., National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 123, Horatio, South Carolina 29062. A post-paid, ready-made house is \$13.00, or a kit with hardware is \$12.00

## HOUSE LOCATIONS

Selecting a good location for the next box is extremely important. Open areas featuring low ground cover and scattered trees are best. Pastures, fields, large lawns, cemeteries, golf courses are likely places. If you have a bluebird trail in mind, houses should be placed 100 yards apart.

## BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGS

The May meeting at Baylands will present Mike Danzenbaker. Mike's stunning portrait of the Eurasian Dotterel appeared in the Oct. 89 issue of Birding. He is going to prove to us that it is not necessary to travel great distances to take good bird photos. His program will consist entirely of slides taken at locations within day trip range of our Bay Area.



Bluebirds suffer a severe shortage of natural cavities in which to nest. Bird houses from Bluebirds Across America can do much to restore the symbol of spring and happiness to healthy population levels.

## LETTERS

### Dear GGAS

I am a 2nd/3rd Grade teacher in the Emeryville Unified School Dist., and am a very pleased user of the *Audubon Adventures* publication. I hope that it will continue so that I can count on its being around regularly. A very important part of what I do in the classroom is based on the natural world: animals, plants, and such. We have a 35 gal. aquarium; a two year old leopard gecko named Alice; a one year old rat, named Question Mark, and at least four plants outside of the aquarium.

Thank you, Sincerely,  
Gordon Bernstein-Potter

### ROBERT SMITH AND THE HARVEST MOUSE

Not surprisingly, Robert P. Smith, Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of the Interior, took umbrage at Arthur Feinstein's piece in *The GULL* for November. While he does *not* deny that he sees his role as "constraining" his "too enthusiastic" subordinates, he does deny that he was a political appointee, asserting that he entered the service "more than eleven years ago under normal, competitive Civil Service hiring practices".

He writes "I am committed to carrying out the provisions of the Endangered Species Act to the limits of our authorities. It saddens me when special interest groups resort to attacks on career civil servants, conjuring up an air of partisan politics, in order to engender support for their cause. I am afraid that such tactics actually have a chilling effect on the wildlife conservation efforts that we should be working on hand-in-hand. Unjust personal attacks also dampen the spirit of the

career employees who have devoted their lives to public service, largely out of dedication to the wise stewardship of our natural resources. Such tactics are counter-productive."

### LOOKING FOR RAPTORS?

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) is a group of 100 volunteers dedicated to studying and enjoying the fall flight of 19 species of birds of prey over the Marin Headlands. The GGRO is currently seeking new volunteers to commit to one day every two weeks from August through December 1990 and to some evening and weekend trainings.

If you want to be part of a long-term avian research project with conservation implications, please attend an Orientation Meeting either Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m., *OR* Saturday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Both will be at GGNRA Headquarters, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. Enter at Franklin and Bay. For more information, call GGRO Director Allen Fish at 331-0730.

### UC DAVIS RAPTOR CENTER

Restoring the gift of flight—hundreds of raptors—hawks, owls, falcons, eagles, vultures and other birds of prey—receive medical care and rehabilitation through the UC Davis Raptor Center. So successful have these efforts been that nearly a thousand former patients have taken to the skies, released into the wild, in the last decade.

The Center's nonprofit rehabilitation and public education efforts need support and you can help. Contributions play a major part in financing the Center. They offer an adopt-a-bird program by which your contribution will provide food, care, and rehabilitation help. In return you receive a certificate

of adoption, informational packet, a photo of your bird, and a year's end update along with the satisfaction you get from involvement. Options include:

- Small hawk, owl, or kite . . . . . \$125
- Large hawk, owl or vulture . . . \$250
- Eagle . . . . . \$500
- Endangered Species . . . . . \$1000

Why not adopt a bird, or honor a friend or relative? Give the gift of flight by sending support to the UC Davis Raptor Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA 95616.

### SAN DIEGO PELAGIC TRIP

The Western Field Ornithologists will sponsor a half day trip to explore the ocean waters west of San Diego looking for birds. Expected are Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Black and Leach's Storm-Petrels, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Xantus' Murrelet and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. Possibilities include puffins, Flesh-footed Shearwater, South Polar Skua and Red-billed Tropic Bird.

The cost is \$35 per person (includes membership in WFO, there is a discount for members). Send check payable to WFO to Ginger Johnson, 4537 Del Mar Ave., San Diego, CA 92107 (619) 223-7985. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed. Include names and phone numbers of all persons for whom you are making reservations.

The trip will depart promptly at 5:30 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 1990. Please be at the landing (Seaforth Sportfishing Landing, 1717 Quivera Road, Mission Bay) 30 minutes before departure time.

### WATCH FOR EXTENDED TRIPS

Chris Carpenter, Extended Field Trip Coordinator, alerted us to an announce-

ment which will be ready for *The GULL* for May. There will be a GGAS trip to Ecuador and Galapagos, including La Selva in the Amazon, Cotopaxi Volcano and Quito, and Tinalandia. It will be scheduled for February 1991.

### GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Annually, Audubon Chapters in the Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara sponsor a High Sierra program. It is offered in three sessions of one week, from July 29 through August 18 this year. The camp is in the Golden Trout Wilderness in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. The camp is a three mile hike from the trail head with an altitude gain of 500 feet. For details write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897. If interested, reservations should be made soon. (Costs are listed as \$195—adult, \$135—children 10-13, \$110—children 3 through 9.)

### FREMONT CLASSES & REUNION

Alice Hoch, who has been offering birding classes through the Fremont Adult School since 1975, announces Tuesday morning birding field trips for eight weeks beginning April 17 and ending June 5. Pre-registration is by mail or by person at the Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Rd., Fremont, CA 94538. The cost is \$60. Meet at the school's Multi-purpose Bldg, Room 3 on April 17th at 9:30 a.m. Be prepared to bird that morning. Bring binoculars, field guides and scopes (if possible). The phone for information is 791-5841.

### REUNION

Former students of Alice Hoch's bird



Watching Classes and Walking Tours are invited to renew old friendships and make new friends at a gathering Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Park, Fremont. It will be at Picnic Site B (between the Senior Center and the Boat House—in case of rain, at the Fremont Adult School, rooms 10 and 11). Bring lunch and beverage if you wish. Call 657-0475 or 791-5841 if you have questions.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

It's time to visit the Ranch! April brings some of our finest picnic weather, so enjoy it at ACR. The egrets should be arriving in large numbers, and if the Golden Eagle hasn't caused a major upset, the first Great Blue Herons should be hatching.

Between the drought and the Golden Eagle, our heronry seems to be in a state of flux. Regretably, herons seem to shift nesting sites from time to time. Usually the causes for such moves are not known.

We do know the ACR heronry has been in use for 50 years or more. It has withstood predation by owls, and raccoons. The birds seem to have ignored the presence of large numbers of people at the overlook, in the ranch yard and along the lagoon. El Nino didn't seem to bother them any more than the passing traffic on the Coast Highway.

But in nature, variables are never ending. The Golden Eagle made a brief reappearance in February, which coincided with the arrival of the first herons. Subsequently at least six pairs of Great Blue Herons have established nests near Bolinas. A few seem to be getting established at ACR too. It remains to be seen what the others will do. Helen Pratt informs us that in drought years both herons and egrets may delay establishing nests until later in the season.

So at this point we have a drought which may be the cause for a slightly delayed breeding season, we have an eagle which might pose more serious problems, and we have a throng of visitors on the way.

Since it is the policy of ACR to support natural processes we will only attempt to control our own impact. In an effort to reduce that impact the ACR board has decided to restrict access to the overlook through mid April. Therefore it seems the overlook will be closed until the colony is well established.

Of course all the other trails will be open, so you really shouldn't hesitate to visit us and enjoy that first spring hike and picnic.

## RANCH GUIDES

We would like to welcome our new class of Ranch Guides who just completed their training and will be on hand at the Ranch during the public season. The people who make up our Ranch Guides have added significantly to our weekend program, and once again we would like to commend returning guides for past efforts and wish them well this year. The next time you're at the Ranch, it is likely a Ranch Guide will be the one who answers your questions and adds the bit of information which makes your visit a more memorable one. Since the overlook will be closed early in the season expect to see the guides in unexpected places.

## SPRING SEMINARS

If you received our ACR Spring Bulletin you've already had a chance to register for one of our exciting seminars. If not, we've selected our April offerings to entice you to broaden your horizons, and to learn more about ACR and the world around you. Advanced registration is required for all seminars. Just give us a buzz at (415) 868-9244 to plan a special and educational weekend. If you didn't get a bulletin

just call that number and Edris will be glad to send one out.

On April 7 and 8 Ray Peterson and John Petersen will team up to present the "ACR Wildflower Medley". Our resident biologists will introduce you to wildflowers at both Bolinas Lagoon and Bouverie Preserves and it will include a night at Volunteer Canyon. The cost is \$45.

April 21 and 22 is "Earth Day Dawn" at Tom's Point. Cypress Grove biologist John Kelly will guide you on this overnight visit to Tom's Point on Tomales Bay. You will get to know your fellow explorers while you set-up camp and during dinner. You will enjoy the beauty of the night and walk in the early morning mist on this special celebration of Earth Day. The cost is \$30.

April 28 is a day for hikers at ACR. Ray Peterson assures us there is no uphill on the "Annual Downhill Hike". You will have to join him to find out for sure, but we haven't heard any complaints during the last five years. The hike is four miles and there is a \$10 fee.

### **GUIDED NATURE WALKS AT BOUVERIE**

If you haven't seen the Bouverie Preserve in spring you really missed something. The wildflowers are just spectacular and the birding is pretty good too. Give yourself a special treat

and join one of our Guided Nature Walks. These walks are led by members of the Bouverie Docent Council. Try to join one this spring. They are scheduled for Saturdays, April 14, 28, May 12 and 26, between 9:30 and 1:30. Reservations are required the Wednesday prior to each walk. Call early to reserve your place. (707) 938-4554.

### **EARTH DAY AT ACR**

Members of the ACR family will celebrate the 20th annual Earth Day on Sunday, April 22. Eleanor Decker, BAP (Bouverie) Docent, tells us that BLP (Bolinas) docents will present an exhibit at Dominican College on Earth Day. BAP members who make up the Quercus Quire will lead a Love the Earth sing-a-long at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa at 3 p.m. on the 21st. They will lead another on the 22nd to wrap-up a Sonoma Creek clean-up. Each class visiting the Bouverie Preserve during April will receive a redwood sapling.

If you visit the Ranch on Earth Day, April 22, docents and guides are planning a very special program of guided walks, talks, songs and sales of environmentally sound products. And of course don't forget the Earth Day Dawn seminar presented by John Kelly. We hope you will join us for Earth Day, 1990.  
—DAN MURPHY

## **GIFTS and BEQUESTS**

### **FOR RARE BIRD ALERT**

#### **Gift of**

Cornelia Foster, Walter Tordof  
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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288  
Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.